

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING FOR THE PLANNED HOMEBIRTH



Hearing is essential for normal development of speech and language. Finding babies with hearing loss early and offering education, family support and intervention before they fall behind in language development can make a big difference. Hearing loss is known for being "invisible" and cannot be seen by parents or even doctors with a regular well-baby exam.

Since children with hearing loss may startle to loud sounds and even seem to listen and will coo and babble, it can be difficult to recognize hearing loss without a formal test. Hearing screening is best done in the first month of life when the baby can easily sleep through the screening. Over 90% of babies with hearing loss have two parents with normal hearing.

Please inform us of your decision if you wish to refuse newborn hearing testing on your baby.

MICHIGAN NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM



Michigan Early Hearing Detection
and Intervention Program

P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909

517-335-8273 or FAX: (517) 335-8036
www.michigan.gov/ehdi

For any questions, or to refuse newborn hearing testing on your infant, please contact Nan Asher, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program, Program Consultant: Phone: 517-335-8273 or email: AsherN@michigan.gov.

Why is Newborn Hearing Screening important?

Identifying hearing loss early is important. Speech and language start to develop right after birth, even though babies don't usually talk until about 1 year of age. A child with hearing loss may have difficulty with speech and language development. If a baby has a hearing loss, it is usually not noticeable to parents or doctors. Screening and follow-up testing are the only ways to find hearing loss early. Learning that your baby has hearing loss at an early age will help you and your child develop lifelong communication and language skills.

Where can my baby's hearing be screened?

Equipment and trained personnel who can perform newborn hearing screening can be found in a variety of locations in Michigan; Cost may vary but are a covered benefit under the Affordable Health Care Act of 2010.

*Babies born to **Your Practice or name, title**
Appointments can be scheduled:*

ABC County:

Infant Hearing referral Center
Anytown, MI 48000
Phone: (555) 555-1234
Another Hearing referral Center
Anytown, MI 48000
Phone: (555) 555-1234

Local Public Health Dept:

Very few public health departments can
handle infant hearing screens.
If yours is capable, we will list.

DEF County:

Infant Hearing referral Center
Anytown, MI 48000
Phone: (555) 555-1234
Another Hearing referral Center
Anytown, MI 48000
Phone: (555) 555-1234
Phone: (555)-555-1234 Fax:(555)555-4321

Local School District:

Some districts or ISD/RESA centers are
able to handle infant screens.
If yours is capable, we will list.

How is Newborn Hearing Screening done?

Newborn hearing screening does not require your baby's participation. Unlike hearing tests done with older children and adults, babies do not have to raise their hands when they hear a beep. While your baby is asleep, computerized equipment will measure your baby's internal response to a series of tones to check your baby's hearing. The testing is not painful or even uncomfortable.

There are two different technologies currently in use for babies, OAE and A-ABR. Both are acceptable for screening babies. OAE stands for Otoacoustic Emissions. With an OAE, a small probe is placed in the baby's ears. The probe looks like an earbud used to listen to music. Soft tones are played through the speakers, and the probe measures the tones as they are bounced back from different parts of the ear. The computer measures whether the results are a pass or a refer (did not pass).

A-ABR stands for Automated Auditory Brainstem Responses. Sounds are played to the baby through earphones while the baby's internal response to the tones is measured by small, sticky sensors placed on the skin. Again, the attached computer measures whether the results are a pass or a refer (did not pass).